

The Missionary Helper.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, BY THE

FREE BAPTIST WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

MOTTO: *Faith and Works Win.*

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No. 12

Working Notes.—There is little space for Christmas greetings in our annual report number, but we hope that the joy and peace and promise of this beautiful time may bless each heart. . . . We regret that we did not have the text of Mrs. Brewster's will earlier, in order to quote from it for HELPER readers. All will be interested in this added proof of her benevolence and interest in the Woman's Missionary Society. Besides bequests to the Educational Society and to Bates college, are the following: "To the Woman's Missionary Society for Storer college, Harper's Ferry, W. Va., for scholarships for young women, to be called Brewster Scholarships in memory of Mr. Brewster, one thousand dollars. To the W. M. S., to be applied to its invested funds, three hundred dollars. To the W. M. S., for the school to be established at Cairo, Ill., the library, save such parts as are otherwise disposed of in the will." . . . Work at Storer seems to be prospering. The money for improvements in the sewing room was obtained. The teachers laughingly say that if the school continues to increase in the future as it has in the past year, Miss Baker will have to swarm out from the original hive and settle with a new colony! She writes, "We have just unpacked a box and barrel, and were delighted to find papers and magazines for the Sunday school. We were out of reading matter to distribute to the scholars. Please ask some society to send us more [freight prepaid]. We have just had a pitiful letter from a minister's wife in the country asking for clothes for her children. Shall send what we have and put my older girls in the sewing room at work making more garments. It is time they learned to do a little missionary work. One of my girls, who is teaching near Berryville, writes that her flock of children are anxious to sew, and asks for some quilt pieces and other material for them." The boys at Storer are interested in cooking, as well as the girls, and are disappointed if any of their classes are crowded out. Miss Baker is so full of work that she thinks she ought to be "twins," and all the other teachers are equally

busy. . . . Miss Shirley Smith, studying at Ann Arbor University with the purpose of becoming a medical missionary, has been asked to teach a Bible class for the Students' Christian Association this year, and has consented to do so. The class will probably be one of girls for training in personal work. . . . A Michigan correspondent writes that in October the Woman's Missionary Societies of Reading, N. Reading, Cambria, West Cambria, and West Reading held what they called an all-day "inspirational meeting." Among other things photographs of the HELPER sanctum were shown, and a very bright paper on the HELPER read. The author declared that she was willing to be called a crank if she could turn out subscribers for the MISSIONARY HELPER. Another suggested that they send our little magazine to friends who did not have it, for a Christmas gift. "It was a beautiful meeting and I am sure will do good," was the verdict of the writer. . . . This leads to a very pleasant letter recently received from a Maine lawyer. After speaking of the excellence of the HELPER, he adds, "I have faith in its management, and I believe it will win. You can draw on me for \$5 to increase the subscription list." Such a practical expression of goodwill is an important part of the "works" that help "win." Who next? . . . Note the revised premium list on second page of cover, the prospectus for 1898 on fourth page of cover, and Mrs. Schwarz's change of address to 74 Portland St., Providence. Mrs. Schwarz has a new supply of responsive readings on various subjects that are very well received. They can be obtained at 2 cts. each, or \$1 per hundred. . . . Again prayerful attention is called to "A Golden Memorial." It was beautiful to note how quietly it grew as soon as announced at annual meeting; first one then another came to the treasurer and slipped a five dollar gold piece in her hand in memory of some loved one, until thirty-five dollars had been given or pledged. More has been received since. . . . Mr. O. T. Hill of Rochester, N. H., always the generous friend of missions, has presented a valuable collection of India books, pictures, coins, curios, etc., to the MISSIONARY HELPER library. In accepting this gift with sincere appreciation, we would call the attention of auxiliaries to another expression of Mr. Hill's devotion to missions, which may be of general interest and usefulness. See "A New Stereopticon Lecture," in November number. . . . It was a happy surprise to find two Free Baptist young women at Wolfville, N. S., who are teachers in the Young Ladies' Seminary, a department of Acadia University. We are indebted to Miss McLeod and Miss Crowell for a very pleasant hour at the building, and a glorious outlook from upper windows. It was here that Miss Gaunce was educated.

"Do as much good as you can, and God will see to it that you do enough."

IN THE QUEEN'S DOMINION.

AFTER three weeks of work and play in the Provinces, the treasurer and editor have returned to the daily round, the common task, with renewed life and vigor, wider outlook, keener appreciation of the likenesses, as well as differences, of work the world over; with beautiful memories of hospitable homes and Christian fellowship, and the few new-found friends who are among the permanent heart possessions, whether seen again in this life or not.

The merest outline can be given of this trip, which was crowded with incident. By the invitation of the women of the New Brunswick Free Christian Baptists, we started from Bangor, Oct. 8, to attend the annual meeting of their missionary society, in connection with the N. B. General Conference. It was pleasant to meet on the way Prof. Anthony of Cobb Divinity School, who was going as delegate to the Conference.

As we steamed into Fredericton, the afternoon of the 9th, we saw from the car window a group of women who wore the white ribbon, that little symbol "For God and Home and Every Land," which gave us a sense of kinship at once. This was deepened by the cordial greetings of the president, secretary, and others then and there, the warm welcome to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Yerxa, and their daughter, Mrs. Blackmer—president of the Fredericton auxiliary—and the continued kindness of all as the days went by.

Saturday evening and Sunday we attended meetings of the Conference, and would have known that we were among Free Baptists, had we been placed there with our eyes shut. It was a pleasant revelation, that, in spite of different environments, dividing lines, and comparatively little communication, the spirit that animates a people will manifest itself in the same way, wherever they may be; and it is good to remember, that, while each is loyal to his own family, church, state, and country, there is still the larger fatherland in which we know no separation.

Two things were noticeable in the several services—the singing was so spirited and hearty that it was what it should always be, an important part of worship; and the same might be said of the collection, in which everybody seemed to take part as a matter of course and as though they enjoyed it.

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society was opened Monday morning, Oct. 11. The amount of time given to business, the painstaking service, and up-to-date methods, would commend themselves to any state. The president, Mrs. A. C. Smith of St. John, West, presided with gentle dignity throughout the session. There, as in all of our missionary societies, we believe that the secret of success is prayer and faith united with works. A fitting introduction to the business meeting was the reading of rules of order, which are

included in a small pamphlet containing constitution, by-laws, etc. We were glad to find there also a recommendation of the MISSIONARY HELPER. We heartily sympathize with our sisters in their support of the *Religious Intelligencer*, which is to Canada what the *Morning Star* is to the States, and hope that, with the widening of its circulation, the HELPER will also find its way to more homes, as here the *Star* and HELPER are found side by side. Later the following resolution was adopted: "That this society considers the HELPER an excellent medium for the dissemination of missionary intelligence, and hereby recommends it to the use of local societies." The report of the home secretary, Mrs. Hartt, was full of interest and showed fruitful work done in each of the seven districts. She emphasized the need of organizing children's bands, spoke of the monthly missionary prayer meeting, and closed with this significant sentence, "We ought not to be satisfied until every church is represented, for even the existence of a church depends to some extent on supporting foreign missions." Mrs. C. W. Weyman, who is a gifted speaker, gave an oral report and brought the work and needs of India very near. She held in her hand the familiar India "Annual Report," and as she told of Miss Gaunce, whom they support and who lives with our Mrs. Smith in Sinclair Orphanage, we felt that we were closely related and that all of our work is of common interest.

The public meeting in the afternoon was well attended by both women and men; indeed, the brothers seemed everywhere interested in the work of the woman's society. The platform was beautified with plants, and the portrait of Miss Gaunce was conspicuously placed. The address of welcome by Mrs. F. C. Hartley and response by the president were happily expressed. Synopses of the reports of the morning were given. An able and suggestive paper on "Systematic Giving," written by Miss Fullerton of St. John, was read by Miss Seely. Rev. Joseph Noble, one of the Free Baptists fathers whom all love to honor, spoke of the home mission work which he had done for the woman's society, and said that he distributed copies of the MISSIONARY HELPER where he went, telling the people that if they wanted to be helped in mission work to take that magazine. In closing he contrasted the former timidity of women in public with the finely conducted meeting of the day, and added that he always said to those who were afraid of woman's work, that, when the center is kept strong, the outer circles will grow and be strong, and he prayed that the women might be abundantly blessed. That Father Noble practises what he preaches was evinced by his subscribing for two copies of the HELPER before we came away. The address of the afternoon was "The Last Command," by Miss DeMeritte, who, in spite of the long program and late hour, held her audience closely. At the conclusion she was invited to go to St. John and repeat the address.

Tuesday forenoon the women continued their business meeting. In the afternoon the sand-map of Balasore was given. The platform was attractive with wall-maps, portraits of the Queen, Mrs. Boyer, and Miss Gaunce, table of curios, photographs, etc. A zenana and Bible woman were represented in native costume. The interest of the exercise was greatly enhanced by the helpful presence of Miss Jessie Hooper, whose faith and works, we believe, were the prime factors in the practical beginning of the Widows' Home in India. Nearly her latest words to us were, "I am praying for the Golden Memorial," and nothing could more surely convince us that it will be blessed and a blessing. That evening we were happily entertained in Dr. and Mrs. McLeod's beautiful home, and had the privilege of seeing where the *Intelligencer* grows, in a cozy corner of its own.

Wednesday afternoon we attended a W. C. T. U. meeting and five o'clock tea in the hall of the Union. It was a great pleasure to meet and greet these women who took the earliest interest in the Widows' Home. Our readers will remember that the first funds for this purpose came from W. C. T. U. workers in New Brunswick.

At St. John, West, we were very much at home in the family of Rev. G. A. Hartley, who has been pastor of that church forty years. Mrs. Hartley, an active and effective mission worker, is one of the board of managers of the general society, the one with whom our previous correspondence was held, so we felt especially acquainted with her even before we loved her. Sunday evening Miss DeMeritte spoke with her usual ease and earnestness to a very appreciative audience. The sand-map was given there later on a week night. We shall never forget the bright glimpses of life in two hill-top homes in St. John, West, with their broad outlooks across the Bay of Fundy—one that of Mrs. Hartley, the other of the president, Mrs. Smith—nor the kindly words at the church just before we left, nor the sweet singing of "God be with you till we meet again." It would be a pleasure to write of the brief vacation trip to Nova Scotia, and the lovely land of Evangeline; of the meeting of old friends, and their more than kindness, in the home of Rev. J. K. West at Canning, where the next Nova Scotia Conference is to be held; but it was to New Brunswick that our work called us, and there we must leave this inadequate report, with the echoing words, "God be with you till we meet again."

OF every three men and women now living in the world, two have not even heard the name of Jesus. The people are hungering, and do you say "Send them to the villages to buy; send them away, for the night is coming on"? Do not say that, but listen to the voice of your Master, as he tells you to bring what you have and he will bless it. There shall then be enough and to spare for all.—*Miss Annie Taylor.*

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

BY MARY A. DAVIS.

ANOTHER twelve months of busy hands and brains, and again comes the oft repeated question to expectant ears, "Watchman, what of the night?" The night may have seemed dark, but the scintillating stars have never failed to be present, and, to the eyes turned heavenward, ever luminous, and no full-orbed moon could have given the radiant cheer to benighted wayfarers which has come to this society as the Sun of righteousness has pierced the darkness with his enlivening rays.

Death, not as a grim messenger but as a herald of peace, has entered our ranks and left large vacancies in homes and the society. Among this number are Nellie Cole, at one time a member of the board of managers, and Marilla Marks Brewster, editor of the MISSIONARY HELPER the first nine years of its publication. The pathway they have climbed seems more inviting since these have passed over it, and the steps they have cut will help to make more secure the feet of those who shall follow.

A great disappointment came to this organization early in the year by the failing health of Mary Sophia Phillips, our first kindergarten teacher. This being a new department, no one was able to take it in charge until her recovery. Later a still keener disappointment followed in the form of an official announcement that this same teacher, "Miss Beebee," as she was graciously named by her Hindu admirers in early infancy, is soon to leave her own mother mission to add strength and cheer to the heart and home of a young, lone worker in another section of that land of spiritual darkness. We can only speed her departure, as many another son or daughter has been sent from the maternal embrace, with a fervent "God bless you, and make your life a useful and happy one." This vacancy whenever it occurs, by request of our advisory committee in India, will be filled by her aunt, Miss Hattie Phillips, so long and favorably known in Rhode Island, until other arrangements can be made satisfactory not only to the Woman's Missionary Society, but also to the Rhode Island Young People's Union, which has contributed so liberally to the support of this worker and her department. Under date of July 3, 1897, Dr. Helen Phillips, missionary of the Conference Board, writes of the desirability of this work from Muhammadnagar:

I have some interesting work here, just what I have wanted for years—a kindergarten—whose rapid growth I am contemplating with something of alarm, for I do not know what I shall do with these shining, oily, wriggling little brownies if they go on increasing. You know I believe we have lost years and years in our work by not taking this people in their early childhood, by not keeping them constantly under our influence. These dear little children are as teachable as any at home, but before they have reached an ordinary school age

the most of them have learned enough evil to keep them at work for years unlearning. I wish there could be a kindergarten in every village in Bengal within the next six months.

WIDOW'S HOME.

While our veteran, faithful, and beloved Mrs. Dorcas F. Smith was on her last furlough in this country, those who had the opportunity to study with her the phases of our future interests in India could not fail to be impressed with the urgency of her appeals for a widows' home. In this she was ably seconded by Miss Jessie Hooper of New Brunswick, who made more apparent through her pleadings with both voice and pen the needs of these poor stranded ones—stranded by no will of their own, but by the customs and prejudices of a society wholly ignorant of Christ's methods of dealing with the bereaved and unfortunate. These appeals met a cordial response. There soon came to the treasury a leading contribution of one thousand dollars from an unknown friend who believes in the injunction, "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." Other contributions followed until sufficient funds were received to render it advisable to commence work.

A dying bequest of five hundred dollars from a beloved classmate of my own, Miss Nellie Cole of Lakeport, N. H., has just been received, as a permanent fund, to be named for the donor. This was accompanied by an additional twenty-five dollars for the support of a widow for one year; the first instance of providing for the full annual support of one of these unfortunates. Other endowments are greatly needed. The gift of five hundred dollars as a permanent fund insures the naming of such a fund for the donor and the perpetual support of some widow at this home. Are there not some fathers or mothers who from pure gratitude that their own loved daughters can lead sheltered lives in a Christian land will be glad to avail themselves of the opportunity here offered to put five hundred where it may afford shelter perpetually for one of these worse than fatherless and motherless ones?

The walls are now nearly completed, and soon this place of refuge will be ready for occupancy. So near the heart of Mrs. Smith has been the desire to see this structure completed that it sometimes seems she will be ready, when the doors are opened to receive its inmates, to repeat with devout Simeon the *Nunc Dimittis*.

FAMINE.

The disastrous famine which has proved so fatal to many parts of Hindustan has affected comparative slightly the provinces of Bengal and Orissa. Nevertheless neighboring suffering has called for sympathy and help, which has met a generous response from our constituency on this side of the sea during the year.

With no abatement of this terrible scourge, which is graphically described in a recent communication from Pandita Ramabai, under date of May 6, we feel assured this avenue of relief should be carefully kept in view, and from our ever flowing abundance substantial aid be furnished to our starving brothers and sisters.

"THE HELPER."

Our magazine, coming to us the present month in dainty white and gold, a memorial of the golden anniversary of the first Female Missionary Society among Free Baptists, has had a year of exceptional prosperity. While the desired and attempted circulation of 5000 copies by subscription has not been reached, there has been an addition which has been very commendable.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Free Christian Baptists of New Brunswick has recently, through a series of delightfully cordial letters, invited our treasurer and editor of the HELPER to meet with them at their next annual session, to be held in Fredericton, N. B., Oct. 9, particularly because of their interest in the MISSIONARY HELPER. We trust added influence and a larger circulation may thus be secured, while it bestows no less than it receives in the intelligence gained from a careful and discriminating survey of our own and other mission fields. The only purely missionary publication of this denomination, crowded with statistics of the work, programs for meetings, children's exercises, gems of poetry, sparkling with thoughts culled from all accessible sources along the way, letters filled with illustrations of the every-day life of the workers, all make it a true helper in the auxiliary, the church, and at the fireside. Our membership should as carefully con its pages as did our lamented Dean Fullonton those of the *Morning Star*. He said he always read all of each issue, even to the advertisements.

STORER COLLEGE.

Near the close of the year, hearing a call as strong and tender as that which takes Miss Beebee from us, Miss Mary Brackett resigned her position at Harper's Ferry to grace a home at our national capital. We shall miss this genial, earnest-hearted teacher, and would here chronicle our highest appreciation of her connection for many years with that school. Her position will be filled by Miss Claire Sands, granddaughter of Dr. J. J. Butler, late professor in the theological department of Hillsdale college. This young lady comes to her work with broad western ideas, a cultivated mind and heart filled with zeal for the Master. We congratulate our recently elected Principal Osgood that he is to have so able a coadjutor for the next year at Storer college.

While these consecrated young people will give of their best to that institution, let it ever be remembered that their success or failure will depend in some

measure upon the stalwart support which we render and the constancy and fervency of our prayers. Let all such help never wane. Principal Osgood is the son of one of the mothers of this society. Let our hearts beat in unison with hers as she prays that great good may come to us and the cause through the instrumentality of these youthful leaders.

AFRICAN MISSION.

Closely allied to Storer college is the establishment of an African mission, as suggested to this society in a recent letter from Dean Howe of Lewiston relative to the plans of the African prince, Penick Clinton, who has just graduated at Bates college. Clinton, in his letter to the society at a later date, very frankly states his idea for evangelizing his own people. He hopes after another year of professional study to return to his native land with plans formulated for introducing civilization and Christianity to his nation. He believes it will be better to go alone at first and consult with his friends, fearing lest the unexpected introduction of white persons might cause suspicion and prejudice and defeat his object. He thinks two or three years at least must elapse before he will be able successfully to take white missions among his people. The expense of a mission there will be quite large, according to his estimate, and he very pertinently asks, "Can Free Baptists do it when the work in India now in hand is so poorly sustained?" 'Tis a grave question, and demands that together with the Conference Board we give it special, prayerful attention. Africa stretching out her hands to Free Baptists and pleading for the gospel should have but one response, "She shall have it." Shall man shut a God-opened door? He says, "No man can shut it."

For the help of Afro-Americans Storer college came into existence. For the help of Africa, as well as America, Afro-Americans have been educated and uplifted, waiting God's own time to let the light there kindled shine into that dark land. To the watchman it seems "the day is" at last "breaking," and "the morning cometh" for us. Shall we as sluggards wail, "A little more sleep"? I plead with you my comrades, contemporaries, friends of humanity, workers, to awake, arouse, throw off this lethargy that seems almost like the sleep of death.

The business of our society is kept well under control. Peace and harmony exists among its membership and with all mankind. The financial year, our "year of jubilee," has, according to our treasurer, been "a blessed one." The thank-offering has exceeded that of all previous years. All bills of the society are paid, and a larger surplus than usual remains in the treasury with which to commence the work of another year. But I plead for the "showers of blessing" that shall refresh and revive India, quicken American fallow fields, and

that shall cause the shallow streams to overflow until Africa's arid wastes shall be covered with bud and blossom that shall bear fruit fit for the use of the Master.

Is it possible that we in our busy lives, working until nature almost exhausted calls a halt, have half forgotten that God, and God alone, "gives the increase"? Have we half forgotten the gentle reproof our Lord administered to careful Martha, "cumbered about much serving" for the one she devotedly loved, and the wise commendation he bestowed upon her sister, who thought the time profitably spent while she sat at her Saviour's feet and listened to his words of instruction?

Suppose we pray more for the next year. The records of the first Female Missionary Society are filled with the spirit of prayer. Sometimes a day of fasting and prayer was appointed and observed. A halo of prayer rests upon their work. The seal of the Most High was affixed to it. The results no one can tell. Let us pray not only for what we have in charge, but that God will lay this work upon many strong young hearts who shall more fully carry out the divine command, "Lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes." Persuade them to take some of the places which require time and thought. Persuade them to assume responsibilities, and help them to carry out the details. Gather in our young women. Let them take the auxiliaries into their own hands, while we assist by giving all the weight of our influence and experience. I sometimes wonder if, in our anxiety to have the best at our district and association meetings, we have overlooked the fact, that, while it is a great pleasure to have a distinguished speaker, it does not develop our own working force as much as when one or two of them can be persuaded to take an assignment that requires of them study and thought. There is no way to learn to do a thing but to do it. There is no way to bear responsibility but to assume it. Burdens not only develop but are often greatest blessings.

I have somewhere read a charming legend. At one time the birds could not fly, but walked about, radiantly cheerful and happy in their earth songs to their Maker. To test their love for him he placed upon them the burden of wings. They bore about the burden in the same cheerful spirit, with no diminution of joy in their songs. At length, as a reward for the way in which they had received and borne their burdens, these wings became a means of bearing them to the upper air, where a larger horizon opened to their sight and a much more glorious life became theirs to enjoy. So burdens borne by us for the sake of Him who lays them upon us open to us the brightest vistas that our eyes ever behold, and awake new songs of gladness in our hearts that had otherwise forever been unsung.

Helps for Monthly Meetings.

JANUARY.—REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

Another year, another start, another chance to do
What lieth closest to our hand; God loves us, all is well.
Disdaining fear, we greet the year, whose first white leaves are new.

—Margaret Sangster.

Motto, "Faith and Works Win."
Colors, blue and gold.

SUGGESTIVE PROGRAM.

Reading, Ps. 67.

Responsive reading, "The Glorious Consummation." (Leaflet, 50 cts. per hundred, obtained of Mrs. C. E. Schwarz, 74 Portland St., Providence, R. I.)

Singing, "Missionary Battle Hymn" (November HELPER. Solo, with accompanying chords of "John Brown's Body"; all join in chorus).

Prayer, for God's blessing upon and direction in the work of the coming year.

Report of annual meeting in Providence. (See "A Stray Breeze from Annual Meeting," in November HELPER, and secretary's report in this number.)

Synopsis of work in the home field during the year. (See home secretarie's and corresponding secretary's reports.)

Outline of work in the foreign field, locating each station on the map, and mentioning the missionaries at each station. (See corresponding secretary's report.)

Announcement of apportionment of money and HELPER subscribers to our state, by the president.

Address of president of the general society, read by a member and followed by discussion.

Prayer. Closing hymn.

A GOLDEN MEMORIAL.

THE prayers and seed-sowing of fifty years have accomplished much—witness the faithful missionaries in the India field, the Orphanage where forty children have for the first time found a home, the bright boys and girls learning of the love of Christ through consecrated teachers, the eager little folks in the kindergarten, the opening zenanas, the village schools, the Bible women on evangelistic tours, the medical missionary healing body and soul; and last, but by no means least, the auspicious beginning of the Widows' Home.

It is just and fitting at such a time to speak tender words and pay loving tribute to the early workers who builded better than they knew; but think you that a soldier returning from the war or a veteran forced by age to retire from active service is satisfied with praise, however heartfelt! No, their only plea is, "Send a soldier to take my place, or ammunition for the army, or at least help the sanitary commission—don't wait for words!" And so it seems that the celebration of this anniversary of fifty years of deeds would be incomplete without some worthy deed of recognition to last for more than a day. What might it be? An extremely busy worker sat at her desk, with mind concentrated upon entirely different matters, when suddenly "out of the everywhere into here" came these words, "A Golden Memorial." Where did they originate? Surely not in that worker's brain, for she had never thought of such a thing. Not a word of Mrs. Bacheler's burning speech on "The Need of the Hour in India" could she recall, although its import haunted her. Should the words, which opened wide possibilities, be considered a divine inspiration meant for use? Why should *she* bear the burden of it. But it would not let her go, so she consulted the president and treasurer, and they said "god-speed" to the idea, which is this—that in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the Mother Society, there be started a permanent fund, to be called the "Golden Memorial," the income always to be used for the Widows' Home. And why particularly for the Widows' Home? Because these unfortunate beings were especial objects of interest and pity to our early workers, because this matter has been close to the heart and a subject of prayer for years to our oldest active missionary, Mrs. Smith, and because the need is one that speaks for itself and needs no explanation. The income of each \$600 of a permanent fund would at least support one widow, which means saving one woman from probable degradation and worse than death to a clean, Christian life—the saving of an immortal soul. But we are not begging for money to be given from the usual sources to divert from regular channels. All the work must go on, as it has gone on, with its loyal friends behind it. There are those, however, who are stewards of the Lord's money who will be glad to make such an investment as this. Who for once and for all time will give into his treasury \$1000, another \$100, some \$50, some \$25, and so on down to \$1, perhaps in memory of a promoted worker who labored and prayed for this very result through all the years of a quiet but fruitful life. Every auxiliary and individual might well be glad to have at least a small interest in such a memorial. All who desire to do so, now or later, will send their gift to the treasurer, Miss L. A. DeMeritte, Dover, N. H., who will acknowledge and receipt it. If the Lord gave this inspiration, the hearts of his own will respond to it, and we have only to wait for its fulfilment.

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TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FREE BAPTIST WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

MINUTES.

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society was held at the Roger Williams Free Baptist church, Providence, R. I., Oct. 6, 1897, according to the following call :

The annual meeting of the Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society will be held at the Roger Williams Free Baptist church, Providence, R. I., Wednesday, Oct. 6, at two o'clock in the afternoon, for the election of officers and the transaction of any other business which may legally come before it.

Alice M. Metcalf, *Rec. Sec.*

Ocean Park, Me., Sept. 2.

The president was in the chair. Devotional service was led by Mrs. D. W. C. Durgin of Rhode Island.

The following committee on courtesies was announced : Mrs. Ella E. Stanton, Mrs. L. S. Harris.

The ushers appointed were Miss Clara M. Law, Miss Bertha Barney, Miss Etta Jencks.

Voted, To accept the records of the board of managers.

Report of treasurer was accepted. Report of New England secretary, Mrs. E. H. Roberts, was accepted. Report of western secretary, read by Mrs. M. A. Gilkie, was accepted. Reports of the publisher and editor of the MISSIONARY HELPER were accepted. Report of publication committee, Mrs. S. A. Porter chairman, was accepted. Report of Bureau of Missionary Intelligence and Exchange was accepted. Mrs. Schwarz, who has so ably conducted the literature department, was called to the platform and introduced. Report of the western committee was accepted.

The following committee on resolutions was appointed : Mrs. M. G. Osgood, Miss Kate J. Anthony, Mrs. F. K. Chase.

Voted, That at the time for election of officers an informal ballot be taken for the four principal officers of our society.

The following committee for nominating the remaining officers was appointed : Mrs. O. W. Fullam, Mrs. E. E. Stanton, Mrs. M. A. Gilkie, Mrs. S. A. Porter, Miss E. J. Whitten.

The report of the committee to formulate resolutions for Miss L. A. De-Meritte and Mrs. N. W. Whitcomb to present at the New Brunswick meeting was accepted, and reads as follows :

To the Woman's Missionary Society of the Free Christian Baptist church of New Brunswick, the Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society sends greeting.

DEAR SISTERS:—We learn with pleasure of the invitation you have extended to our treasurer, Miss L. A. DeMeritte, and to our editor of the MISSIONARY HELPER, Mrs. Nellie Wade Whitcomb, to visit your next annual meeting. We wish through them to express to you our fellowship in Christian service, and to assure you that we shall be glad to co-operate in whatever plans you may devise for closer union in our mutual work in India.

MRS. E. H. ANDREWS, }
MRS. M. M. H. HILLS, } *Com.*

The "Golden Memorial" published on the MISSIONARY HELPER was indorsed by the society, and a committee of two appointed to formulate resolutions resolutions to be printed in the December HELPER. Mrs. A. M. Metcalf, Mrs. J. M. Hooper were appointed.

A short recess was taken, after which a mission talk was given to the children, by Mrs. F. K. Chase and others, illustrated by the sand-map.

Society adjourned to 7.30. Benediction by Rev. E. B. Stiles.

7.30 P. M. Session opened with a praise service led by the church chorus. Scripture reading and prayer by Rev. E. B. Stiles. An address of welcome was given by Rev. C. E. Cate, pastor of the church. Response by Miss L. A. DeMeritte.

The president's address followed. Solo, Mrs. Anna Ellis Dexter. Report of the corresponding secretary was read and accepted. Music by the church choir. Miss E. M. Butts gave sketches of missionary life, and, after a solo by Mrs. A. E. Dexter, Rev. E. B. Stiles gave a practical illustration of Hindu life. Mrs. Dexter led the congregation in singing our "Missionary Battle Hymn," after which the meeting adjourned until Thursday morning at 8.30.

8.30 A. M. The society met according to adjournment. President was in the chair. Service of prayer was led by Mrs. E. H. Hall of New Hampshire. The scripture text presented from 1 Pet. 2 : 20 was especially helpful.

Records of previous meetings were read and approved.

Voted, That we accept the hymn written for our Golden Memorial by Mrs. Nellie Wade Whitcomb as our society hymn.

The following resolution was adopted :

Whereas each state is recommended and urged to elect a state agent for the MISSIONARY HELPER, and whereas the Woman's Missionary Society as a society has never recognized the agent of the MISSIONARY HELPER as its general agent, whose duty it is to be in close communication with state agents; therefore

Resolved, That we hereby recognize the agent of the MISSIONARY HELPER, who is appointed by the board of Woman's Missionary Society, and that hereafter the name appear on our letter heads as general agent and publisher of the MISSIONARY HELPER.

Voted, That the letter from Miss Hattie Phillips pertaining to building on to Sinclair Orphanage be left with the executive committee.

The report of the committee appointed by the board to consider the needs of the costume department is as follows :

Resolved, That the Woman's Missionary Society request that each auxiliary will kindly send not less than fifty cents to Miss Kate J. Anthony, to aid in needed supplies for the costumes and exercises for use in the auxiliaries, and that when there is time it is very desirable that a duplicate of a costume or costumes may be contributed by the auxiliary which has had the use of the same.

That an open letter explaining the need of this department be prepared by Miss Anthony for the HELPER.

MRS. A. B. WEBBER, } Com.
MRS. C. EDITH CHASE, }

Report was accepted. The following delegates were presented: Mrs. M. R. Wade, Mrs. A. B. Webber, Mrs. C. A. Ricker, Mrs. O. W. Fullum of Maine; Mrs. E. H. Hall of New Hampshire; Mrs. E. H. Andrews, president of Rhode Island District; Mrs. C. C. Swan, Mrs. L. R. Chadwick of Massachusetts; Miss Clara M. Law of the Young People's Union of Rhode Island. According to a previous vote an informal ballot was taken for the general officers of the society. The informal ballot was made the formal ballot and resulted in the following choice. See page 365.

While the ballots were being counted our treasurer announced the receipt of the first five dollar gold piece for the "Golden Memorial." This seemed to be an inspiration, and thirty-five dollars in gold were contributed in memory of dear friends.

The report of the committee to nominate the remaining officers was accepted, and officers elected. Adjourned to 2 o'clock. Benediction by Rev. E. G. Wesley.

2 P. M. The society met according to adjournment. President was in the chair. The devotional service was led by Mrs. M. R. Wade.

Report of the N. E. secretary of children's work was given by Mrs. A. E. Dexter, and accepted. The time arrived when the workers' conference was programed.

The MISSIONARY HELPER was first considered. Mrs. C. A. Ricker opened the discussion. The following resolution was adopted:

Whereas the MISSIONARY HELPER, as the organ of the Woman's Missionary Society, has a just claim upon all interested in our missionary work as a denomination, and not only has a claim but deserves it; and whereas the past year has witnessed an encouragingly increasing interest in it, which should renew the courage and zeal of all its agents, and renew our faith in our methods of increasing its circulation; therefore

Resolved, First, that we hereby express our thankfulness for the way our little HELPER has been led the past year, and reconsecrate it to the service of Christ's kingdom.

Second, that, through the general agent, Mrs. E. H. Andrews, every state where there are F. B. churches be urged to appoint a state agent, whose duty it is to appoint Quarterly Meeting agents, and the duty of these to appoint local agents, who shall secure as many subscribers as possible in the churches of which they are agents.

Third, we hereby instruct our general agent to keep in close touch with the state agent, by at least one letter yearly to them, suggesting ways and means by which they may interest the states and increase the circulation of the HELPER.

Fourth, we commend the publishing committee in every reasonable effort, by premiums and commissions, that will stimulate the local agents to do better work and arouse enthusiasm on the part of subscribers.

Fifth, to our editor in her enthusiastic work, to our agent in her faithful service, to the publication committee, who always have the interest of the HELPER at heart, we pledge our prayers and co-operation.

The HELPER was fully discussed, and many helpful and encouraging thoughts were expressed.

Voted, That the apportionments of the MISSIONARY HELPER to the states be the same as last year.

The interest of Storer college was next considered, and a helpful talk given by Miss M. Jennie Baker, teacher in the domestic science department.

The subject, "How to make auxiliaries interesting," was considered in a paper full of bright thoughts by Mrs. M. G. Osgood.

Voted, That the treasurer be instructed to pay for printing the minutes of annual meeting.

The following resolutions were adopted :

Whereas the young people of Rhode Island have done efficient service for the Woman's Missionary Society for many years, and especially during the past three years for the kindergarten work; therefore,

Resolved, That we heartily commend the past efforts of the Young People's Union of Rhode Island, and shall cordially welcome any service they may render the kindergarten work in the future, at the same time hoping that they may agree upon such a policy in their work as will create the largest interest in our mission field.

Whereas in this golden jubilee year it is fitting that we take both a retrospective and prospective view of our work as a society; therefore

Resolved, That from grateful hearts we praise God, who called us into existence, for the uplifting development of women through the blessed opportunity of working together for him; that we render thanks to him for all successes of the past fifty years; that we appreciate all recognition of our other denominational organizations as co-workers in the one broad field of the Master; that, in view of all this, with renewed consecration we go forward to attempt larger things in his name.

Resolved, That we shall long remember with grateful pleasure this delightful visit at the Roger Williams church, and pray for heaven's richest blessings upon the restful and inviting homes that have been so generously opened to us, and the hearts and lives of all who have so kindly ministered to our comfort and pleasure.

MARY G. OSGOOD, }
C. EDITH CHASE, } *Com.*
KATE J. ANTHONY, }

Adjourned to 7.30. Benediction by Rev. E. S. Porter.

7.30 P. M. The society met according to adjournment. President was in the chair. Prayer by Rev. J. H. Roberts. Praise service by church chorus. Solo by Mrs. A. E. Dexter.

Records of the last meeting were approved. An able address was given by Mr. J. S. Durkee of Cobb Divinity School, Lewiston, Me. Anthem by church chorus. Address, "Juniors in Missions," by Miss Cora B. Bickford, Biddeford, Me. Collection was taken, after which Mr. W. H. Trafton sang a solo. Mr.

Lewis P. Clinton gave an address on the question, "Shall We Have a Mission in Africa?" After a solo by Mrs. Dexter, the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Blaisdell, and the society adjourned, after adopting the following :

Resolved, That we hereby express our sincere appreciation of the music rendered during this convention by our own sweet singer, Mrs. Anna Ellis Dexter, and also by the chorus choir of the Roger Williams church.

Alice M. Metcalf, *Rec. Sec.*

REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

[*Mrs. S. C. G. Avery.*]

INDIA FIELD.

BALASORE.

Missionaries : Mrs. D. F. Smith, Miss Hattie Phillips, Miss J. J. Scott, Miss Beebee M. S. Phillips.

Mrs. Smith reports :—

All things considered, this has been the most satisfactory year in the Orphanage she has had since taking charge soon after Miss Crawford's death. In the latter part of October she was taken down with what proved to be a very serious illness, from which the rallying was long and painful, covering about two months. She needed care that was very taxing. The larger girls almost without exception manifested the greatest tenderness and sympathy, being on the alert to see what was needed, always ready, night as well as day, to obey a call. Rachel Das was a comfort beyond any power of expression. Her personal ministrations and general management of the Orphanage were most satisfactory. The cost of her education fell rather heavily on Mrs. Smith during the seven years she kept her in school in Calcutta, but she feels that God has abundantly rewarded her.

Before she was fairly on her feet again mumps broke out in the Orphanage ; first one case, then two and three, until finally there were hardly any well ones. This trouble passed leaving no chronic difficulties. Measles were next brought in by one of the village children. There were only a few cases at first, and they had them lightly. Soon more were attacked, and at times lay prostrate a dozen in a row. Generally, in a hot climate like this, measles are not much to be dreaded, but this year they have in many cases assumed a virulent form, leaving chronic difficulties, from which some are still suffering. One little girl, Sookla, died. Mrs. Smith was advised not to go into their dormitories, but after this death she had the sickest ones brought to the house and the workroom made into a hospital. The kind English doctor did them much service during this time of trial, coming once a day for days together, and sometimes twice a day. Another one, Monee, sister of Sookla, a dear, gentle child, died after Mrs. Smith

left on her visit to Miss Folsom in Cocanada. In January a little baby was sent them by the Agers from Bhudruck, the child of a pilgrim mother who died near there. The child was about fifteen days old when found, and two or three months later was sent to the Orphanage. She was so utterly fleshless that her life was despaired of, but, notwithstanding she had the measles, she still lives, a little puny thing. The girls are all fond of her, and her presence has been a blessing among them.

Because of the failure sometimes to reach friends through private letters, Mrs. Smith wishes to publicly thank all who have so kindly adopted children for their co-operation. The thought of their prayers, together with their alms, brings comfort and cheer to her heart. The average number of children has been forty, the two deaths leave thirty-eight, but two more are expected very soon.

The work of the Bible women has gone on much as usual. Udia, the woman supported by the East Otisfield and Sumner churches, has been on a tour for several months, in connection with Marium Carties, one of the women belonging to the London Society. They brought in most encouraging reports concerning the interest manifested by their hearers; but save one or two widows none have made any public profession of faith in Christ. Rebecca has been with Mrs. Coldren a good deal of the year, and she speaks of her work in high terms. The Hill fund has been sent to Mrs. Wyman in Santipore. There are Phula, Oma, and Saite, besides Marium, who are supported by the English society. Saite seems to be in failing health, and quick consumption is feared. Our prayers are earnestly requested on her behalf, as well as her family. Oma, while not in her usual health, has done a good deal of work. In the early part of the cold season she toured with Miss Gaunce. Phula has worked about home all the year. The Bible class for women has gone on regularly except during the five weeks of Mrs. Smith's absence, and greater interest is manifested in the study of the word than in any previous year. While the heart cries out longingly for disciples for the Master among the thousands of women who hear the message of salvation through Christ from our missionaries and Bible women, there is cause for rejoicing in the knowledge that many do already believe. Nothing perhaps could show this fact more plainly than the complaints that so often meet one in these days. Native gentlemen of education and influence, who wish to revert to what they call the primitive Hindu faith, say "Our women are spoiled by your Christian teaching. They are no longer the willing instruments in our hands that they used to be." A native gentleman who has a good government position, and who professes great admiration for our dear Mrs. Smith as a lady, deprecates her persistence in teaching Christ in connection with secular instruction. He says, "The missionaries have done a great wrong to Hindu society in introducing

Christianity in it. The people are unsettled and restless, especially the women." May this not be a "sound among the mulberry trees"? In the church there seems to be a steady advance along lines of Christian work and an increasing sense that Christianity is a religion that has to do first with the heart.

Rachel Das reports :—

The day school consists of eighty girls from six to sixteen years of age. There are five teachers, one male and four female ; these female teachers were graduated and trained in this school. There are five divisions, each division sends its candidates for the government examinations— minor, vernacular, upper and lower primaries, and the infant class ; also there is an industrial department. In the last government examinations, which took place on the 30th of September, '96, twelve girls were sent up, of whom six passed in division first, three in division second, and two in division third. The minor division was opened in '94. It embraces not only the highest standard in vernacular, but along with it a certain amount of English. At the above examinations a candidate appeared from our school for the first time in this division. We were very glad she was successful. The school inspector complimented the school for having done so well. We are hoping to send up two more candidates this year from this division, as well as some from the lower standards. Beside the school books the girls learn scripture lessons, map-drawing, knitting, sewing, and cutting garments such as are worn by this country people. We have scripture exercises each morning from 10.30 to 11 A. M., and on Saturday, instead of going on with the regular school books, we spend most of our time with the scripture lessons. This year in the highest class the reign of King Solomon has been studied. In lower classes the children learn the catechism, Bible stories, and to sing hymns. We are glad that two of the girls from the day school have been baptized this year. This girls' school stands highest in the district, and on the whole there has been a decided improvement in their conduct and manner of studying. Our desire is that, in the process of time, with the education they may learn to shrink from evil and bring many to the True Light.

Miss Hattie Phillips's work :—

Miss Phillips has during the year closed one of her Hindu schools. It was six miles away, and a part of the distance very difficult to make during the rains, except with bare feet and short skirts. The teacher was a Hindu, who so neglected his work that she concluded it was not a wise use of mission money to continue it. The average number belonging to these Hindu schools during the year has been 210, and the average daily attendance 149. In her work among the Christian children she has held morning meetings for the juniors, and the division of large girls seem to be truly Christian Endeavorers. They have done

committee work, and have asked the privilege of sewing to earn money to give away. Their testimonies in the consecration meeting show growth in grace, and some eight or ten have been baptized and united with the church. Miss Hattie still superintends the Christian S. S. A part of the scholars took the examination on the lessons of the second quarter which was proposed by the India S. S. Union. About twenty received certificates from the Union, bearing the portrait of their first general secretary, Dr. J. L. Phillips. In March, '97, it was voted to use a part of the money taken in their Sunday-school collections for prizes to those who stood best in examination and were most regular in attendance. Several of the boys came to Miss Hattie, protesting against having anything spent in prizes. When she asked them how they wanted it spent, "Why, for the Lord's work; for the starving," they said. Is it not true that by careful training children can be taught to delight in liberality? She is also greatly interested in temperance work, and is actively engaged in rescuing those who have been addicted to the use of poisonous drinks and drugs, and faithfully working to save the children. Notwithstanding the discouragements encountered she feels satisfied that results of the monthly temperance lessons will appear in tangible form in the years to come. In the early summer Miss Hattie met with what has proved quite a serious accident. On Saturday, June 26, when out on her wheel, she lost her way. A storm came up, darkness overtook her, and she fell over an embankment into a ditch, badly spraining her ankle and rupturing one or more ligaments. As her work needs her care she asks our prayers for a speedy restoration to health.

Miss Scott is at her home in Scotland, storing up health and strength for her work at Balasore, to which she hopes to return in the near future.

Miss Beebee Phillips formally opened the Rhode Island kindergarten the 28th of December, '96. She has sixteen children enrolled, all from the native Christian families. Bright, loving, winsome children, capable of receiving much good. Kindergarten work being a novelty in that part of the world, there are many difficulties to be overcome. One is the lack of kindergarten songs and stories translated into the vernacular. Her aunt, Miss Hattie Phillips, has translated quite a number of songs into Oriya, which have been a great help. She speaks very enthusiastically of the genuine help the organ has been which was given by the Roger Williams C. E. society. It has not only been invaluable in her kindergarten work, but has done good service in the church; being carried there Saturday night and brought back Monday morning to her school-room. It is with regret that we learn that our little kindergarten missionary has accepted a school for life, and expects soon to go to Cuttack as the wife of an English Baptist missionary. May the blessing of the Lord go with her, is the prayer of her friends.

BHUDRUCK.

Early in June Mr. and Mrs. Ager were transferred to Santipore, so Miss Barnes is the only white person in Bhudruck, and has been nearly all the year, as the Agers have been there only about a month since the first of January. She has charge of the Bible women, oversight of the little village and all Christian work going on there. She speaks in high terms of her Bible women, especially the older one, whom she considers a treasure both in faithfulness and efficiency. She has a weekly class with these Bible women. They are studying the prescribed course of Bible lessons. The cold season's work was very interesting; especially one place eleven miles from Bhudruck, where many of the people really seemed anxious to know the Christian religion, and urged her to live among them that they might learn more. The women's prayer meeting and the woman's missionary society meetings are always held at Miss Barnes's house; while the numbers are few there is an earnest endeavor to be faithful. She concludes her report by asking the prayers of the friends in America, and saying, "If we all do our best, you in America and we here, we shall each be sure of the Master's word as to the woman of old, 'She has done what she could.'"

CHANDBALI.

With the funds Mrs. Coldren receives from the W. M. Society she pays one Oriya Bible woman, one Telugu Bible woman, and partly pays one woman teacher. They have a small school for Christian girls. One Hindu and one Mohammedan girl belong to it and attend our Sunday school. The Telugu Bible woman came in January. Her husband is a Telugu preacher. They have three Telugu villages in their immediate vicinity, with about four hundred people. Three of these people were baptized last spring. They have a Sunday school in the nearest Telugu village, and prayer meetings two evenings in the week. She has a second Oriya Bible woman, who is paid with other funds from America. These two women work together, and are well received by the women, among whom they are sowing good seed that will bear precious fruit by and by.

MIDNAPORE.

Missionaries: Dr. Mary Bachelor, Miss L. C. Coombs, and Miss E. M. Butts (now in this country).

Dr. Mary Bachelor has had a very busy year. During the fifteen months ending June 30, '97, 1437 patients were treated, many of them more than once, bringing the whole number of treatments up to 3520. About 150 visits have been made during the year, the majority being in the native Christian community. She writes that sickness among the native Christian people calls her out by day and by night, and because they are usually considerate, and do not call her unless

necessary, she always goes to them, however dark and rainy the night or hot the sun by day.

In the native Christian girls' school there have been between forty and fifty names on the roll for the whole year; seven girls of the highest class went up for government examinations, and five passed. Besides their secular studies the children have been taught from a new book by Mrs. Burkholder, called "The Young People's Bible Lesson Leaflet," which is a concise epitome of Bible history. The catechism by Mrs. Bacheler has been taught in all the classes. The latter part of the year Bible readings in connection with the International Sunday school lessons have formed part of the devotional exercises. The younger children are taught a short passage of scripture daily. In looking over the recitation books the answers were marked "Good," "Passable," or "Bad"; and it was gratifying to notice the increasing interest with which the girls looked for their marks and discussed the questions missed.

The Woman's Conference recommends that all women employed in mission work be encouraged to take a course of Bible study. Examinations are held at a stated time throughout the mission, and a prize is given to the one getting the highest number. The Bible class for the Midnapore workers has been in Dr. Mary's care, and, with the help of Miss Coombs when she was obliged to be away, has been kept up throughout the year. They are studying the apostolic church. The meetings are held every Saturday afternoon and are well attended. The members of the class on the whole have taken pains and done good work. Emily Rai, one of the Midnapore zenana teachers, took the prize at the last examination. This was especially commendable, as she has a family of little boys and is not very ready with her pen.

There is a flourishing band of hope, which Miss Coombs meets every Tuesday afternoon. They also have a society auxiliary to the W. C. T. U., with thirty-two members; president, native pastor's wife; vice-president, wife of Randall, foreman of printing press; secretary, head teacher of the girls' school; treasurer, one of Miss Coombs's workers. A committee to look up absentees, a program committee, prayer meeting committee, and some one to stand in the background and see that all goes well; i. e., to shoulder responsibility generally and "mother" the meetings and their interests. Dr. Mary has filled this last amend position, as well as been a member of the program committee and prayer-meeting committee. This society has for two years lived and held its meetings nearly every month. It has been instrumental in removing one outstill, which was near our Christian community and a temptation to the weak ones. The aim of this society has been to create a public sentiment in favor of temperance and social purity. Some of our native sisters, who have for years been in the habit

of taking *pan*, and with it tobacco grounds, have been induced to give up both.

During the cold season Dr. Mary went on an itinerating tour with Mr. Hallam's party. The singing of cheerful hymns, showing bright pictures illustrating the gospel story, and the white faces never fail to bring together a goodly company. Frequently a man, sometimes a Brahmin, would join the hearers and commence idle argument and discussion with a view to breaking up the interest. It was found a good plan to bring this man to the front and silence him as quickly as possible, and then talk very plainly to him. One favorite line of argument was, "You say Jesu Christa is the true Saviour, we say Kista is the true Saviour; your Christa and our Kista are the same." Another was, "Faith is what will save; you have faith in Christ, we in our gods; both you and we will be saved by faith." In some zenana homes, however, where men were excluded, they found earnest listeners, rarely discussing, but finding the love and graciousness of the Saviour almost beyond belief. So few women in the districts were able to read, it seemed almost useless to give them tracts and leaflets, but many begged earnestly for them, saying proudly that a son or a brother knew how to read and would read to them. Thus into many homes have gone tracts and leaflets. May they be blessed of Him who said of his word, "It shall not return unto me void, but shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it."

Miss Coombs writes that her time has been filled with visiting zenana homes, looking after interests connected with the church and Sunday-school, attending quarterly meetings, letter-writing, keeping accounts straight, the every-day trivialities of housekeeping, and one short trip for outside work. While the annual report shows the number on the roll of zenana homes visited to be less than last year, the average is the same, and the work much more thorough and satisfactory. One of the students, a widow, took a government examination along with our Christian girls, which has never been done before; and, though she failed to pass, she has been pluckily studying ever since, that she may try again next year. The influence of teaching the mothers years ago is now showing itself in the daughters. In one house where Mrs. Burkholder (then Miss Phillips) taught the mother, a daughter this year took the entrance examination to the Calcutta University, and intends to go to college one year, and then take a medical course. Another daughter can read and write English very well. These two daughters were pupils of Miss Coombs when she had a girls' English school. Another former pupil, a widow, has published a book of poems and joined in a competition for a prize essay. All these things show that the hidden, silent, steady forces are strong, and will show their effects on the surface more and more as the years go on. Miss Butts's going home put the ragged schools

into the hands of Miss Coombs, and when Mr. Stiles went another responsibility had to be taken by her, that of the boys' mission school. It has been almost impossible for her to visit all the schools, and she hopes soon to have an inspector. There are nine ragged schools, four of them in Midnapore and the others at distances varying from two to twenty-seven miles away. Miss Coombs spent three weeks in Contai, at the time of the quarterly meeting, in company with Miss Landes, and, but for the continual consciousness of their inability to reach even a fractional part of those ready to receive them, would have enjoyed the trip thoroughly. Last October she spent several days in Calcutta attending a series of meetings held especially for missionaries, and received a spiritual uplift that made the work of the year comparatively easy in spite of the discouragements. At the yearly meeting Miss Coombs was appointed to report the result of the efforts of the women of the churches to raise money for home mission work. Some of them began in '95, and some in '96, so the report will not be exactly for one year, but the result up to June 30, '97, is as follows :

CHURCHES.	NATIVE WOMEN.			MISSIONARIES.			TOTAL.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Bhimpore	20	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	6
Midnapore	48	8	3	.....	.....	.....	48	8	3
Balasore	19	2	.....	43	8	.....	62	10	.....
Metrapore	3	.....	6	6	.....	.....	9	.....	6
Bhudruck	10	.....	6	13	.....	.....	23	.....	6
Chandbali .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	4	6
	100	11	9	62	8	.....	181	8	3

It is not known how much was given by the native women of Chandbali. There is quite a large balance in the treasury, but as soon as workers can be found the work will be both strengthened and enlarged. She concludes her report with the earnest plea that the helpers at home will join in the prayer that is constantly ascending from that side of the field, "Send forth laborers into the harvest." Looking at the depleted ranks, is it not possible that we have neglected to obey the command of Christ, "Pray ye"?

Miss Butts is home on a furlough, much needed and well earned, and will tell us of her work as she goes about among the quarterly meetings, yearly meetings, and individual churches of the homeland.

While Mrs. Hallam has taken charge of the Bible women since Miss Butts's departure, she is no stranger to them, for almost ever since her coming to Midnapore she has been accustomed to accompany them whenever suitable opportunity offered. Sometimes they together have visited the heathen villages five or six miles out of town, but the work of these Bible women is largely confined to bazaars and villages in the immediate vicinity of Midnapore. When

Mrs. Hallam was engaged in this kind of work twenty five years ago, on entering these heathen homes the people were frightened, and some little time had to be taken to get acquainted with the inmates. All sorts of questions would be asked by them. Now all is changed and the workers can enter at once upon the utterance of the glad message of salvation. In those early days in the zenana department they had to teach embroidery in order to induce the women to read. While this work is still taught, it is secondary to the great work. Every one now understands that where our workers go the Bible goes. "So," says Mrs. Hallam, "we can see advancement is being made, but oh how slowly! We have some faithful Bible women, but the great regret is their number is so small."

HARPER'S FERRY; STORER COLLEGE.

From Mrs. Lightner we receive the following:—

The history of the school year of '96-'97 is a record of persistent toil; so full were we of work that its intensity bordered on excitement. The blessings of the year were numerous—good health, a large proportion of dutiful pupils, and a gratifying measure of religious interest. The church by systematic methods paid for two large furnaces and other necessities promptly and cheerfully. Do you ask our needs? More than ever before do we want means in large measure pressed down and running over. To start machinery and fully equip an industrial department means money. We want the power to set pupils, under skilled teachers, to earning something while in school that will in part pay their way. An intelligent, thrifty laity will create a demand for enlightened preachers and better teachers. Till we have such the intellectual minister may have no call, and the blatant uneducated one may fill the pulpit, and the ignorant teachers be preferred to better ones in our common schools. In measuring the success of Storer we ask you to judge by the many earnest men and women of the alumni, whom we are proud to claim. Silently, under great disadvantages, have they wrought, and not in this world will the story of their heroism be told.

Mrs. Mary Brackett Robertson has been doing the same work for the past year as for several preceding. Teaching general history, English language, and printing, with the addition this year of geometry. The teaching of English has proved very interesting, and in comparing with previous years she finds a decided gain in the ability to write correct English. Especially is this seen in the essays of the graduating classes. The work last year with the class in American and English literature was especially satisfactory. A little while after studying a selection from Emerson's "Nature," one of the young men remarked that his study of literature was certainly opening his eyes. "I have seen ever so many beautiful things all around that I never saw before," he said. The little printing class has worked with real enthusiasm, and has published two copies each term

of "The Storer Record," beside doing most of the school's printing. Through the generosity of Mr. F. W. Marston, editor of the *Hallowell (Me.) Register*, one of our trustees, we expect some additions to the equipment of the office the coming year. There will still be great need of improvements, however, and it is to be hoped the friends of the school will bear this department in mind as a worthy object of their benevolence.

Miss Baker writes :—

"After four years of work at Storer I begin to realize that the work that can be produced for exhibition at the end of the year, the pieces of sewing work that can be counted up, the number of topics taken up in the text-book, or the number of girls graduated, represents a very small part of what has really been done. Who can account for the silent influences that have continually been at work, the habits of self-denial and economy that have been acquired? Who can tell of the patience and strength gained by difficulties that have been conquered; of the growth in industry, neatness, and self-control; of the broadening of the mental horizon, the enlarged vocabulary, the higher ideals and the consequent steps upward to another and better plane of living? It is in these things that our real work has consisted, and these are the things that mold and educate, slowly but surely, the young men and women. No one but He who can overrule our mistakes and use our feeblest efforts in furthering his own wise ends can tell the story of a year at Storer."

REPORTS OF HOME SECRETARIES.

[*Mrs. E. H. Roberts for New England.*]

It is always a cause of gratitude at the close of a year to find progress and increased zeal in the Master's service marking the life of an individual or society. It is therefore with thankfulness that we present this review of the year's work in the New England states, throughout which there sounds no note of discouragement, but rather the clear, firm tones of cheer, which have vibrated from a purpose tuned to the key-note of "faith and works." This will be seen from the following reports from the different state secretaries :

MAINE.

President, Mrs. Mary R. Wade, Dover; recording secretary, Mrs. Adelaide B. Webber, North Berwick.

There are seventeen quarterly meetings and conferences in this state, and all have contributed to the W. M. S. this year. Anson, Bowdoin, Cumberland, Farmington, and Otisfield have raised more than their apportionment. Four have failed to return a statistical report, hence that part of the report is incomplete.

The receipts aside from the incidental fund as reported by our treasurer are \$1949.09. Some moneys were received too late to be credited, otherwise our \$2000 would have been nearly reached. Five new auxiliaries have been either organized or reorganized during the year.

The secretary of the children's work gives encouraging reports in this department. In Cumberland Conference nearly all of the churches are aiding in this way. There are junior societies or bands in eight churches in Bowdoin, and in other Q. M's an encouraging increase. This is a very hopeful feature of our work.

Maine leads in the amount raised by the thank-offering. An earnest, persistent effort has been made by our state HELPER agent to raise the subscription list from 700 to 1000. The fact that those who were in arrears for more than two years have been dropped from the list makes the increase less apparent. The present number of subscribers is 774.

May our motto be "to do with our might what our hands find to do," and at the close of the year make an accurate report.

ADELAIDE B. WEBBER, *Rec. Sec.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

President, Mrs. E. H. Hall, East Andover ; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Julia Davis, New Market ; recording secretary, Miss E. C. Hurd, East Manchester.

In reporting the work done by the New Hampshire F. B. Woman's Missionary Society for the past year, I can mention a good interest in very many of our churches in the W. M. S. Several new societies have been formed, and, notwithstanding the severe financial depression that has been so keenly felt all over our country, the women of our state have done nobly. As corresponding secretary in June I could only find 384 members of our society. At that time they had raised \$1358.07, beside \$66.96 for the India famine fund. The number of MISSIONARY HELPERS taken was about four hundred.

There are many features of the work which are more encouraging than for some time. Better system is becoming established by the auxiliaries, which is very essential for successful work ; and more interest is being manifested in our home missionary work ; viz., that of the south at Harper's Ferry. Barrels and boxes of second-hand clothing have been sent for the work, and in some instances a part of the money raised on home mission day has been designated for this important and God-given work. Younger women are becoming interested, so that as our veterans and leaders are laid aside from work we have hope that these younger women may help to fill up their places, and thus the Master's work go triumphantly on. The call to prayer by our general officers is being more

generally observed, also our annual thank-offering service is more widely observed from year to year, which is proving a source of strength and blessing to each local society as well as to the general. We praise God for the privilege of working for God and humanity, and as opportunity presents itself may we be ever ready to go forward as the Master may lead, knowing that it is faith and works that win.

MRS. E. H. HALL.

VERMONT.

President, Mrs. J. W. Burgin; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. C. Dickey, Washington.

We are glad to report not only an increase in contributions, but we believe there has been a steadily growing interest in the work during the year. While there remains yet much "fallow ground" to be broken up, we commence the new year with courage and hope. We believe the reaping time draws nigh. There are now nine children's bands in the yearly meeting. All but two have been organized during the past year. Eighty-five copies of the HELPER were taken, and a strong effort is being made to increase the number to one hundred. While our special work has been the support of Mrs. D. F. Smith, other objects have received attention. Among these may be mentioned Harper's Ferry, zenana teaching, Armenian sufferers, etc. Missionary meetings are held in connection with all our quarterly meetings. At the public exercises of our annual meeting, held at Enosburgh Falls Sept. 10, a large audience was present. A missionary sermon full of rich thoughts was preached by Rev. Arthur Given. An able paper was presented by Mrs. M. S. Waterman. The music was fine, and all the exercises were listened to with the closest attention. Collection, \$15.40. Total amount raised during the year \$462.57.

MASSACHUSETTS.

The Woman's Missionary Auxiliary of the Massachusetts Association reports progress in interest in missions. The ladies are growing more enthusiastic and seem more determined to do their share in carrying out the gospel injunction, "Go preach the gospel to every creature." At the last session held at Paige St., Lowell, it was voted to change the yearly business meeting to May, instead of holding it in October, and the present officers will hold their respective offices till May, 1898.

Amesbury has a society of six members, which raised \$12.80. Thank-offering service held May 16.

Haverhill has an auxiliary of seventy-one members, which collected \$67.88.

The Lynn auxiliary of thirty-three members raised \$30. Number of MISSIONARY HELPERS taken, 15.

Chelmsford St., Lowell, auxiliary consists of sixteen members and has raised for missions \$108.05.

Paige St., Lowell, auxiliary was revived last June by Miss DeMeritte, and has started forward with renewed energy and zeal. A membership consisting of forty workers has raised \$44. It has sent five dollars to Harper's Ferry, and is supporting a native teacher in India.

The Somerville auxiliary of twenty members raised \$48.54. Number of HELPERS taken 13.

Chelsea has no auxiliary, but observes the thank-offering, which amounted last year to between thirteen and fourteen dollars, besides twenty-five dollars given individually by one of its members. It gives fifteen dollars a year towards Mr. Wyman's support, through the young people's society, and twelve dollars a year to Miss Coombs.

Boston has no auxiliary, but the thank-offering is observed and they give individually for the woman's work.

Brockton church observes the thank-offering and takes copies of the HELPER.

Whitman has no auxiliary, but a mission committee, and observes the thank-offering service.

Worcester church has promised to raise at least ten dollars the coming year for the woman's mission work.

Melrose has some live workers and is contemplating starting an auxiliary. The thank-offering is observed.

Mt. Vernon St., Lowell, has a membership of twenty-seven and has raised \$47.58. It has had two public meetings, one missionary tea, and the thank-offering service. Has sent twenty-five dollars for native teacher, and something to Harper's Ferry.

There are 255 HELPERS taken in the Association; an increase of sixteen over last year. Total membership 213. Amount raised, \$408.85.

[MISS] ETTA B. PIERCE, *Cor. Sec.*

RHODE ISLAND.

President, Mrs. Ella H. Andrews, 122 Vinton St., Providence; secretary, Mrs. Ella Evans Stanton, 20 Hammond St., Providence.

Sometimes when our report is called for we hesitate to write, for we have to make such small figures and speak of small things. And we wonder if the strength of the pine forests and the zeal of the great western uplands will consider our numerical littleness as reports are compared! But we are comforted as we recall that, when the Spirit spoke to the revelator of the seven churches, of one he said, "I know thy works . . . thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." In a sense we believe this utterance is

true of our state work ; for our little company of workers are loyal and give good exercise to the strength both in "faith and works." Since the work with the children and young people has been assumed by the Young People's Union, our work is expressed entirely through the auxiliary.

The thank-offering service has been well observed, and given considerable aid to our treasury. An interest has been manifest in the need of churches west and south, and well stored barrels have been sent to different places. Much has also been done by the auxiliaries for the needy within near reach. We observe a deepening and expanding of the mission spirit, and a desire for more intelligence along the lines of missionary work. Neither gifts nor service have been rendered from any influence of extortion, but from willingness of mind and heart. The development of our workers is of pleasing promise. An improvement is marked in the completeness of our local reports, every auxiliary having made full returns early in the year. Our statistics, though smaller than in previous years because of the young people's movement, are still proportionally good.

Churches, 28 ; auxiliaries, 14 ; members, 378 ; MISSIONARY HELPERS taken, 288 ; amount raised, \$789.50. ELLA EVANS STANTON.

Thus we notice some of the indications of progress mentioned ; more system and better organization, increasing interest in the work for the children, more young women engaged in our work, a desire for more missionary knowledge ; these with some increase in membership and more general observance of the thank offering and annual call to prayer show a growing interest. With these as foundation stones for the coming year may we not be able to build even better for the Master's cause. No complete statistical report can be given, as some state secretaries were unable to get all the statistics from their quarterly meeting and other secretaries. The whole number of MISSIONARY HELPERS reported for New England is 1802. Money reported, \$5,081.85.

The Rhode Island young people have faithfully supported their missionary, Miss Beebee Phillips, and regret the probability of losing her from the field. Your secretary has had helpful correspondence with the several states during the year, and in this way, and by means of the annual printed letters or reports sent her from some of the states, has been kept in touch with the work. Special mention should be made of these printed annual letters or circulars which are sent out, setting forth the plan of work for the year and the special objects of interest. They afford an opportunity of arousing interest and keeping the constituency in closer touch with the work. May the coming year find us going on to win through "faith and works," with loyalty to Him "whom we are and whom we serve."

MRS. E. H. ROBERTS, *New England Sec.*

[*Mrs. A. A. McKenney for the West.*]

As another year draws to a close we find the work very similar to that of other years. We surely have nothing discouraging to report, and wherever our western agent has labored we see much to encourage us. Central Illinois reports a growing interest in missionary work, and there has been a considerable increase in money raised.

The Michigan report is not as complete as last year, but excellent work has been accomplished there. They have more than met their apportionment. There have been some new organizations.

In Minnesota there has been a small decrease in money raised, but a three-fold increase in the subscription list of MISSIONARY HELPERS.

Kansas again deserves much credit for what it has accomplished under trying circumstances.

Indiana and Nebraska not yet heard from.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS.

President, MRS. HATTIE GORDON, Campbell Hill; Secretary, MRS. M. E. ALLEN, Murphysboro; Treasurer, MRS. CLARA MCBRIDE, Murphysboro.

Quarterly Meetings.	Secretaries.	No. of Churches.	No. of Auxiliaries.	No. of Members.	No. of Bands.	No. of Members.	No. of Helpers taken.	Amount Raised.
Wayne Co.	Lillie Alvis	7						
Lebanon	Jennie Rice	5	1	8	1	50	1	\$6.50
Looney Springs	M. E. Allen	21	6	52	5	255	20	100.03
Makanda	Annie Wiley	9	1	6	1	15	1	2.55
Franklin Co.	Col. at Y. M. for F. M.							15.00
	Total	42	8	66	7	320	22	\$124.08

IOWA.

President, MRS. THERA B. TRUE, Edgewood; Secretary, MRS. NETTIE ZIMMERMAN, Bryantburg; Treasurer, MRS. J. I. BROWN, Estherville.

Quarterly Meetings.	Secretaries.	No. of Churches.	No. of Auxiliaries.	No. of Members.	No. of Bands.	No. of Members.	No. of Helpers taken.	Amount Raised.
Blackhawk and Buchanan	Mrs. M. R. Storey	6	3	33	.....	.....	8	\$8.86
Cedar Valley	Emma Coffin	8	4	73	.....	.....	11	392.17
Delaware and Clayton	Mrs. T. True	7	5	57	.....	.....	25	82.23
Little Sioux Valley ..	Maggie Thompson ..	6	4	56	1	.....	21	145.22
	Total	27	16	219	1	.....	65	\$578.48

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—See Miss Moody's article on "The Work in Iowa" in the November HELPER, for a partial report of what has been done in that state.]

MICHIGAN.

President, MRS. ELIZABETH GLOVIER, Davison; Secretary, MRS. ELECTA FRENCH REYNOLDS, Hillsdale; Treasurer, MISS LOMA GARWOOD, Brownsville.

Quarterly Meetings.	Secretaries.	No. of Churches.	No. of Auxiliaries.	No. of Members.	No. of Bands.	No. of Members.	No. of Helpers taken.	Amount Raised.
Branch.....		4					4	\$14.50
Calhoun and North Branch	Miss Bertha Rogers ..	6	4	57			9	55.12
Cass and Berrien ..								79.01
Genesee			6				18	58.04
Hillsdale	Mrs. Carrie Consaulus	18	15				110	307.73
Holton and White River								1.84
Lansing			2				11	37.66
Midland								
Montcalm	Mrs. Emily Fuller						5	
Oakland	Mitta A. Devereaux ..	3	1	12			13	17.42
Osceola	Miss Jane Hall	2	1	23		42	9	11.43
Oxford	Mrs. E. L. Corey	6					1	15.41
Sanilac	" Charlotte V. Hill ..	7	1	6	1		3	39.95
Van Buren	" E. N. Douglass ..	6	4	71			21	86.74
	W. M. S. Asso. Col...							7.63
	Total	52	34	169	1	42	204	\$812.48

MINNESOTA.

President, MRS. A. B. QUIMBY, Winona; Secretary and Treasurer, MRS. F. L. DURGIN, WINNEBAGO CITY.

Quarterly Meetings.	Secretaries.	No. of Churches.	No. of Auxiliaries.	No. of Members.	No. of Bands.	No. of Members.	No. of Helpers taken.	Amount Raised.
Hennepin	Mrs. G. C. Stillman ..	6	4	48	1	13	40	\$162.21
South Dakota	Miss Rosina Palmer ..	4	3	23	2	95	10	85.44
Winona and Houston	Mrs. James Rutherford	4	3	30			12	16.64
Winnebago City....	Mrs. T. O. Comstock .	17	11	136	2	40	57	369.67
	Total	31	21	237	5	148	119	\$633.96

NORTHERN KANSAS.

President, MRS. ATHA ASHLEY, Concordia; Secretary, MRS. S. P. BELDEN, Horton; Treasurer, MRS. J. J. WELCH, Haddam.

Quarterly Meetings.	Secretaries.	No. of Churches.	No. of Auxiliaries.	No. of Members.	No. of Bands.	No. of Members.	No. of Helpers taken.	Amount Raised.
Salem	Miss Anna Denton	3	2	17			7	\$11.97
Blue Valley	Mrs. M. M. Mann	2	1	6				13.48
Washington	" A. C. Gray	2	1	8	1	7	1	20.87
Cloud and Republic ..	" Atha Ashley	2	1	16			2	113.30
Salem Q. M.	Mission collection							2.50
Cloud and Republic ..	"							5.64
	Y. M. Mission Col.							3.00
	Total	9	5	47	1	7	10	\$170.85

Our western field agent, Miss Lizzie Moody, has given one hundred and forty-eight days to the work, mostly in Minnesota and Iowa, and we feel truly thankful for her earnest, faithful services. We are confident the good seed sown in these newer western churches must bring hearts more in sympathy with the great work and the last command of the loving Saviour.

A. A. McKENNEY, *Western Sec.*

FINANCIAL REPORT.

RECEIPTS.		
Oct. 1, 1896, in treasury	\$24.78	
Jan. 1, 1897, from Miss DeMeritte	25.00	
Jan. 9, 1897, Brainard aux. 5 cent tax .....	.65	
Feb. 18, 1897, Minneapolis aux. 5 cent tax.....	5.00	
Feb. 18, 1897, Winona aux. 5 cent tax.	1.05	
April 30, 1897, from Miss DeMeritte	25.00	
June 28, 1897, from Miss DeMeritte	25.00	
EXPENDITURES.		
October, 1896, to Miss Moody		\$20.00
November, 1896, to Miss Moody.....		4.00
December, 1896, leaflets and telephoning		1.20
March, 1897, Miss Moody.....		20.00
Aug. 19, 1897, Miss Moody		38.43
Money exchange .....		.24
Balance on hand Oct. 1, 1897		22.01
	\$106.48	\$106.48

MRS. A. A. McKENNEY, *Western Sec. and Treas.*

REPORT OF CHILDREN'S SECRETARY FOR NEW ENGLAND.

THE interest of the children is on the increase, I believe, but am unable to give very definite results of the year's work, as the workers do not report, even when solicited. Mrs. Grant of New Hampshire writes, "I am unable to get very much information concerning children's work, but this year intend to make some sort of a stir, if I have to travel from one end of the state to the other. All I can give you is as follows: As near as I can ascertain, there are about twenty societies, mostly junior C. E.'s. New Durham Quarterly Meeting has the largest number of societies. The children have become largely interested in Miss Barnes's salary, as the HELPER can show. The average number of members in a society is about thirty-five. Several new societies are promised for the fall. The outlook generally is brighter than formerly, though some societies have disbanded and some places are very hard to get hold of. Doubtless there are more in number in the state, but I have not heard from them."

Mrs. Waterman of Vermont reports:

"*Corinth Q. M.*—Washington: Twenty members, meeting once a month. Collection taken at each meeting. Mrs. F. E. Briggs superintendent.

"*Huntington Q. M.*—I know of only one children's meeting at Starksboro. Have failed to get report.

"*Wheelock Q. M.*—Enosburgh Falls reports no children's work aside from the C. E. society. The juniors have given the little they have raised at home. Some few dollars were sent to the "Orphans' Home." Lyndon Center has a society of thirty members and takes one share in Miss Barnes's salary. St. Johnsbury: The attendance is from ten to twenty. Have raised one dollar for Mrs. Smith's orphan girls, and one dollar for the famine sufferers. West Derby has a society, but do not know the number of members or average attendance."

I have tried to get reports from Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, but have failed. I feel there is much need of an organizer or general secretary, who can visit the different churches throughout the states, enthuse the church members in this work, and organize children's societies where there are none, interesting and encouraging those who are already doing something along this line.

ANNA ELLIS DEXTER.

REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE AND EXCHANGE.

ONCE a year at least it is doubtless well to take "account of stock" in missionary as well as in mercantile affairs, not alone to realize our present position, but the warnings of loss and the encouragements of gain are all incentives to yet more diligent effort toward larger achievement.

Regarding the work of the Bureau of Missionary Intelligence and Exchange during the year past we have something of gain to report—a little gain in many ways, rather than in any pronounced direction or degree. In general the Bureau has never been so well equipped to meet the increasing applications for the varied aids afforded from both departments, but there is large room for improvement, and perhaps our chief discouragement lies in the fact that our plans and hopes so far exceed our possibilities. And the very fact of progress and enlargement serves to bring certain needs yet more prominently and imperatively before us.

It should be remembered that in the costume department the provision of new and delightful exercises is but one step toward better things, and is of little avail until these same exercises are furnished with the needful costumes and accessories; and, as this is somewhat expensive, it follows that it is sometimes a slow process.

The demand for costumes far exceeds our present ability to meet, except in the comparatively "dull season," which comes but rarely. And surely no business house plans for the dull only but mainly for the busy season. It may be of interest to note that one of the busiest periods was during the time of the thank-offering services, when even a fraction of a costume and worn-out and cast-off garments were resurrected and pressed into service, without fulfilling all requests.

Let me quote just here from one or two applicants. One says, "We have been troubled to get the people out to our thank-offering service; they simply would not come. Last year we tried costumed exercises, and for the first time rejoiced in a crowded house and large collection. We feel that we must have them again this year." Another writes, "The costumes and curios were a great success; we had a full house and the biggest collection we have ever known."

There is a growing demand for costumes and curios apart from the exercises. One correspondent writes, "We are to have an evening on India and our work there. Can you help us to illustrate it with costumes and curios from that field?" And another, "We are preparing for a 'bazaar of the nations.' Could you supply us with costumes of such and such countries?" Or, "We are to have a missionary tea," or "a sand-map, and we would like to obtain costumes, etc., to render it all the more interesting and effective." I will state in this connection that additional costumes and curios were recently brought from India by Miss Butts, and some of these, with others, will be on exhibition between services.

Now just a word regarding the means whereby these helps have been previously furnished. Heretofore no charge has been made for use of costumes and curios within our own denomination, nor has a single dollar ever been drawn from the treasury for this purpose. But the costumes have been provided partly by voluntary contributions from our auxiliaries and churches to the costume fund, partly by individual gifts, and the costumes themselves have earned a little, now and then, through use in other denominations. Sometimes societies, after making and using costumes, have generously donated them to the general work; and no gifts, we may add, are more welcome.

But at best these resources are very irregular and uncertain, a fair amount in some years and little in others. It would be expected that with larger appreciation of and calls for these helps, larger contributions would follow; yet, strange to say, with increased demand the receipts for this specific purpose were never so small. It would appear that the societies had settled down to the fact of free service, and had forgotten that this is a bureau of exchange, and that it can give forth only as it receives. Meanwhile we are confronted with the pressing need of replenishing and enlarging these supplies. Shall we "stir the waters" of forgetfulness only, and will this suffice? or shall we reluctantly need to depart from our policy of free service, or that of independence of the treasury, are questions we must meet.

Mrs. Schwarz reports from her department:

The calls for helps for meetings and concerts have been more numerous than in the year previous, and a decided interest has been shown in making use

of the "mite boxes"; a large number of them have been put in circulation. Some effort has been made to add to the contents of the bureau, so as to give more aid to those who are in need of helps, but more remains to be done.

MRS. C. E. SCHWARZ,
74 Portland St., Providence, R. I.

The most favorable aspect of our bureau work falls indeed far short of our cherished hopes and ideals, and it is toward these that we would strive, trusting that the end of another year will at least find us nearer their attainment.

KATE J. ANTHONY, *Chairman*.

REPORT OF PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

THE efforts of the publication committee for the advancement of our MISSIONARY HELPER and such other interests as are intrusted to their care have, we trust, met with some degree of success during the year.

The matter of picture cuts for the magazine has been continued, and the diagram sand-map feature has been of usual interest and profit. Many societies, to the knowledge of the committee, have carried out the plan in sand and pulp maps for use in Endeavor societies and mission bands.

"Five thousand HELPERS"—the watchword at the beginning of the year—were assigned to the various states, and the committee have been much gratified to learn of the very persistent efforts that have been made in some of the states to meet their quota. There is still, however, a large field for work in the subscription department of the HELPER.

The premiums offered for subscriptions have been changed from time to time, and some remarkably good books and generous offers have been presented.

A leaflet entitled, "Aids and Constitution for Junior Mission Societies," has been published during the year.

One new departure has been made. It was thought that it might be an impetus to our missionary work if from time to time the committee should publish leaflets bearing on our own and other mission fields; accordingly a commencement has been made, and a leaflet on our India mission is being prepared and will be published in the near future. If this meets with success others will follow.

The committee have been saddened by the death of Mrs. Brewster, the prime mover in the origin and the first editor of the MISSIONARY HELPER, but we return thanks for her active and useful life. In this connection we wish to express the satisfaction of the publication committee in the work of our present editor, whose love for the magazine and the interests it represents, and aptness to grasp methods happy and versatile, render her especially suited to the duties of her office.

LENA S. FENNER, *Sec. of Com.*

REPORT OF PUBLISHING AGENT.

THE friends of our HELPER have been zealous for its interests all the year, and as a result we can report a year of prosperity, both as to increase of subscription list and decrease of annual deficit.

We believe the magazine is filling its place acceptably, and securing new friends and supporters annually.

The apportionment to states of the number of subscriptions desired from each has received enthusiastic support in some states, and, while no state has reached the limit of its apportionment, some have expressed an expectation to do so during the coming year.

That the claims of our magazine have been presented at the various yearly meetings has been evident, as a list of new subscribers has been received following nearly all such meetings. We must continue to urge that the HELPER be presented not alone at yearly meetings, but that at quarterly meetings also an effort be made to bring the magazine to the attention of those unacquainted with it, and also that further effort be made to secure the appointment of a local agent in each church. The HELPER is glad to express appreciation of the help given by its agents, state, yearly meeting, quarterly meeting, and local church. It is due in a measure to their earnest service that our subscription list has increased each of the past few years, and we must continue to look to them for their help. The policy adopted by the management of increasing the quality and attractiveness of the magazine has proven its wisdom, and we shall expect a continuance of the same in the future. Our editor is indefatigable in her efforts to serve the magazine, and she is rewarded by many tokens of approval. Mention ought also to be made of numerous favors received through the kindness of our Morning Star Publishing House.

This brief *resume* of the year suggests many causes for encouragement and cheer, and we would adapt to our magazine the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless you every month."

ELLA H. ANDREWS.

REPORT OF EDITOR.

THE MISSIONARY HELPER tells its own story from month to month. Of the interest and usefulness of the serial its readers must judge. To write a report of it—except what naturally appears in the publisher's statement—is difficult. It would involve the repetition of prayers and hard work before each number is completed; the hesitation over whether this shall go in and that be held over, when some one will be grieved in either case; the balancing—or trying to balance—the many conflicting opinions regarding what our magazine should contain, so that during the year each side shall have something that will be to it

most desirable and helpful ; and of an editor at her wits' end when a lot of special matter, equally important, that would more than fill two numbers, must either be in that issue or be out of date. Those inevitable thirty-two pages seem terribly unyielding sometimes. Then the relief or alarm when the printed pages are actually before our eyes ; the letters that come from nearly every state where the magazine goes—letters of thanks for a certain article, of loving appreciation of the HELPER as a regular visitor, of kindly criticism, bright suggestion, or of sorrow because some article or poem dear to the local worker could not be used.

It is not usual, but may not be altogether amiss, to present side by side some of the divers expressions which come to our sanctum. In a few cases the exact words are not used, because the letters are mislaid or the words were spoken, but the purport and spirit are accurate : "Some of us who can't attend your large meetings wish we could have fuller reports and more of the papers in the HELPER." "Don't ever print a paper or report. As soon as they are read their mission is accomplished. They are stupid things, any way."

"I wish the HELPER could be made into a magazine that would interest men." "I don't get a look at the HELPER till my husband has read it through. He is fully as interested in it as I am."

"It seems to me that the Practical Christian Living department is out of place in a missionary magazine." "I like the Practical Christian Living department, but am disappointed that more is not made of it. There ought to be frequent articles on hygienic living."

"I would like more poetry, nothing reaches the heart like that." "Not much space should be given to poetry, and then only to the very best ; selected poems are usually better." And so on *ad infinitum*. Several have said that the HELPER would be of greater interest if there were more items about local auxiliary work, to which we heartily agree ; but with one exception not an item has been received from the localities from which the comment came. Let us hasten to add that none of these suggestions have been made in a fault-finding spirit, nor are they referred to in that spirit. We trust that the greatest good-will is mutual, and urge the continued expression of even such opposite opinions. They are stimulating at least.

All who help make our little magazine what it is are grateful for the words of appreciation that come from many sources. The two following extracts are representative. An eastern woman writes, "The MISSIONARY HELPER is to come to our home for life. So long as there is a member of our family living, that magazine will be loved and read." A western woman writes, "I prize my dear little HELPER so much, and thank you for the help and encouragement it gives us to work for the Master." Be sure that such words "do good like medicine."

In thanking all who have been thoughtful of the best interests of the HELPER—the agents who have worked hard for a longer subscription list, the auxiliary members who have introduced it here and there, the contributors at home and abroad, the long-time subscribers who have read with an intelligent appreciation of what the message in black and white stands for, and our new friends whose names have recently been announced—in thanking all these, we would not forget the unfailing kindness of the helpers at the Star office, who are supposed to have merely a business interest in the magazine. We also thank those home workers who, in preparing reports, have considered the eyesight, right hand, and patience of editor and compositor by writing plainly on only one side of the paper, leaving broad margins.

It is no whit less a delight to the editor than to the publisher that, although the expenditure is greater, the financial outlook is brighter, that the subscription list is steadily growing, and the agents having more push.

The majority of cuts used during the year have been obtained through the courtesy of Rev's J. T. Ward, T. H. Stacy, and Z. F. Griffin, as well as the Star Publishing House. We hope that the fiftieth anniversary souvenir will be pleasing to all. It seemed fitting that such an event should be suitably recognized by having the historical articles incorporated in a white and gold magazine which could readily be referred to in the future, when it will be even more difficult than now to study old records and files of the *Morning Star*, or to question our "mothers in Israel." It is also in harmony with its object that the Golden Memorial fund should first be announced in this special number.

Through correspondence in regard to the HELPER came the cordial invitation from the sisters of New Brunswick to your treasurer and editor to attend their annual meeting at Fredericton. May the visit be returned, and the "homeyness" which we cannot fail to feel even before setting foot on Canadian soil become mutual.

The new and slowly growing but very serviceable HELPER Library now contains thirty-seven volumes, besides pamphlets and magazines. Mrs. M. M. H. Hills has put autograph presentation slips in twenty books now in her private library, as well as in complete bound volumes of the *Missionary Review of the World*, MISSIONARY HELPER, scrap books, etc. Mr. O. T. Hill of New Hampshire has generously given a valuable collection of India curios, idols, pictures, and books. The library is always open to kindred gifts that will assist in mission work or in the editorial work of a missionary periodical.

In the coming year the magazine will improve, if all work together for its improvement. It hardly seems necessary at an annual meeting in the state of Rhode Island, where the MISSIONARY HELPER was born and passed its childhood,

where two loyal workers, Mrs. Brewster and Mrs. Bradbury, loved and cared for it, and where its publisher lives—it hardly seems necessary on such ground to plead for continued loyalty to and increasing effort for our missionary organ. No one person or few persons can make it a success. If editor, publisher, printer, agents, subscribers, and contributors unite in doing their very best for it month by month, and its friends pray that it may reach all the homes and hearts it ought to reach, their faith and works are bound to win.

"Without haste
And without rest
Let each man wheel with steady sway
Round the task that rules the day,
And do his best."

NELLIE WADE WHITCOMB.

"MISSIONARY HELPER" ASSIGNMENTS.

THE assignments to the several states of the number of copies of the HELPER to be taken were the same as last year, and as follows: Maine, 1000; New Hampshire, 600; Vermont, 150; Massachusetts, 350; Rhode Island, 450; New York and Pennsylvania, 325; Ohio, 275; Indiana, 150; Illinois, 200; Michigan, 550; Iowa, 200; Nebraska, 100; Kansas, 100; Wisconsin, 130; Minnesota, 200; Dakota, 30. The five thousand is completed by the subscriptions in Canada, India, and the states to which no regular assignment has been made. It is hoped that all friends of the MISSIONARY HELPER, wherever they may be, will work harder than ever this year for a longer subscription list and a consequent wider knowledge of the mission field.

DR. JOHN H. BARROWS, after his three months in India, visiting the great cities from the Himalayas to Cape Cormorin, in his farewell words on leaving the country, said, "The objects most worth seeing in India, to my thinking, are neither the Himalayas, nor the Taj Mahal, the Tomb of Akbar, nor the Temple of Madura, but the varied triumphs of missionary effort. What a prodigious amount of toil has gone into the Christian vernacular literatures, and what splendid triumphs of faith have enriched the church universal! I have heard much less of the discouragements of missions than I expected. I know how hard-worked and in the truest sense self-sacrificing are the Christian missionaries. I know their temptations and sore trials. But I have not heard a single word of doubt with regard to the ultimate evangelization of India. Those who have been here longest have seen the most wonderful changes."

MAXIMS are the condensed good sense of nations.—*Sir. J. McIntosh.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

LAURA A. DEMERITTE, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE FREE BAPTIST WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDING AUG. 31, 1897.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand Aug. 31, 1896	\$1,144 07
for building Widows' Home	\$1,000 00
Widows' Home on running expenses	61 90
Foreign Missions, including zenanas and schools	1,180 66
Home Missions, including Storer college and Ind. Dept.	635 30
schools, teachers, and Bible women at Midnapore	257 60
schools, teachers, and Orphanage at Balasore	810 64
work at Bhimpore	44 50
Mrs. D. F. Smith's salary	356 22
Miss H. Phillips's salary	363 04
Miss L. C. Coombs's salary	290 85
Miss E. M. Butts's salary	40 25
Dr. M. Bachelor's salary	418 00
Miss E. E. Barnes's salary	322 92
Miss J. J. Scott's salary	271 26
Miss B. Phillips's	308 50
Miss M. J. Baker's salary	63 90
western department	5 00
incidental fund	10 35
famine fund	359 00
Rachel Das	43 50
from treasury in India	106 00
principle to be invested	500 00
income of Cristy fund	1,573 23
income of general fund	237 23
income of sanitary fund	2 87
for contributions not specified	1,950 66
Total receipts	11,213 38
Total to account for	\$12,357 45

DISBURSEMENTS.

Cash for Mrs. D. F. Smith's salary	\$408 00
Miss Hattie Phillips's salary	400 00
Miss E. H. Butts's salary	269 74
Miss L. C. Coombs's salary	400 00
Dr. M. Bachelor's salary	400 00
Miss E. E. Barnes's salary	400 00
Miss J. J. Scott's salary	166 67
Miss B. Phillips's salary	310 00
Rachel Das's salary	87 50
Miss Mary Brackett's salary from C. F. income	400 00
Mrs. L. Lightner's salary from C. F. income	400 00
Miss E. V. Smith's salary from C. F. income	350 00
Miss M. J. Baker's salary from C. F. income	500 00

treasurer's salary	\$250 00
assistant treasurer's salary	50 00
medical education of Miss S. Smith	200 00
Orphanage at Balasore	420 00
Hindu day school at Balasore	250 00
zenanas at Balasore	140 00
day school at Balasore	35 00
Hanson school at Balasore	25 00
Bible women at Balasore	56 25
Russell memorial school at Balasore	25 00
repairs of S. O.	77 50
rent at Balasore	50 00
boys' school at Midnapore	60 00
ragged school at Midnapore	215 00
zenanas at Midnapore	240 00
Bible women at Midnapore	125 00
rent at Midnapore	33 50
appropriation to Bhudruck	77 00
Chandbali	37 50
Jellasure	49 50
Bhimpore	160 00
Miss Butts's return passage	230 26
Ind. Dept. at Storer college	400 00
supplies for domestic science at Storer college	1 22
western appropriations	100 00
famine fund	340 43
investment of the premium account of Cristy fund	450 00
reinvestment of funds	500 00
tax on Dickson loan received from the Curtis estate	18 91
annuities	130 00
commission for care of Cristy fund	78 66
general expenses of Cristy fund	51 21
com. for care of general funds	13 81
general expenses of society, including postage and stationery	66 41
T. O. expenses	38 90
HELPER deficit	164 01
Bureau of Missionary Intelligence	18 73
appropriation for literature	20 00
national council dues	33 00
printing annual report	121 59
advertisement in HELPER	60 00
Widows' Home on building account	1,007 38
Total expenditures	\$10,912 68
Cash on hand Aug. 31, 1897	1,444 77
Accounted for	\$12,357 45

LAURA A. DEMERITE, *Treasurer.*

I have examined the foregoing accounts and find them correctly cast and well vouched.

MARY G. OSGOOD, *Auditor.*

NOTE.—The net balance on hand after deducting certain unpaid accounts is \$913.06.

FUNDS AND INVESTMENTS.

<i>Funds.</i>		<i>Investments.</i>	
Cristy fund	\$29,752 00	Municipal bonds	\$10,900 00
Curtis fund	1000 00	R. R. bonds	7,000 00
Cole fund	500 00	Boston and Albany 25 shares	2,500 00
Mary A. Dearborn fund	400 00	Old Colony 22 shares	2,200 00
Dearborn fund	425 00	Debenture bonds	100 00
Hanson fund	500 00	Savings banks	1,545 38
Henderson fund	1,000 00	Mortgages	5,225 00
Littlefield fund	300 00	Trust deeds	7,600 00
Prescott fund	2,000 00	Corporation note	500 00
Sanitary fund	191 63		
Mary B. Wingate fund	500 00		
Widows' Home funds	329 75		
Working capital	672 00		
			\$37,570 38
	\$37,570 38	Premium on Boston & Albany R. R. stock at market price	2,900 00
		Premium on Old Colony market price	1,870 00
			\$42,340 38

LAURA A. DEMERITTE, *Treasurer.*

I have examined the foregoing invested funds and find them in kind and amount as stated by the treasurer.

MARY G. OSGOOD, *Auditor.*

The receipts were received from the following sources:

Maine	\$1,983 84	California	\$20 00
New Hampshire	1,484 34	Province of Quebec	20 00
New Hampshire special for W. H.	1,000 00	Indiana	17 03
Rhode Island	1,076 32	North Dakota	12 50
Michigan	679 20	Nebraska	8 65
Minnesota	628 38	South Carolina	5 00
Massachusetts	484 01	Connecticut	5 00
Vermont	448 27	West Virginia	3 00
Iowa	291 06	Oregon	1 50
New York	235 78	Miscellaneous	52 59
Illinois	100 75	India treasury	106 00
Pennsylvania	89 10	Re-invested	500 00
Ohio	39 75	Income	1,810 46
Kansas	34 08	Income S. F.	2 87
South Dakota	30 75		
Wisconsin	28 15		
		Total receipts	\$11,213 38

LIST OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Made by the Board of Managers of the Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society in annual meeting, October, 1897.

INDIA DEPARTMENT.

<i>Midnapore.</i> —Miss E. M. Butts's salary	\$400 00	
Boys' mission school	120 00	
Ragged schools	215 00	
Dr. Mary Bachelor's salary	400 00	
Bible women	125 00	
Miss L. C. Coombs's salary	400 00	
Zenanas	240 00	
Rent	67 00	
		<hr/>
		\$1,967 00
<i>Balasore.</i> —Miss Hattie Phillips's salary	\$400 00	
Hindu day school	250 00	
Rent	50 00	
Zenanas	140 00	
Rachel Das	87 50	
Mrs. D. F. Smith's salary	400 00	
Orphanage	420 00	
Day school	35 00	
Hanson school	25 00	
Repairs	77 50	
Bible women	62 50	
Russell memorial	25 00	
Kindergarten work	400 00	
Miss J. J. Scott's salary	400 00	
		<hr/>
		2,772 50
<i>Bhudruck.</i> —Miss E. E. Barnes's salary	\$400 00	
Bible women and schools	77 00	
<i>Chandbali.</i> —Bible women and schools	37 50	
<i>Jellasore.</i> —Girls' school	62 00	
<i>Bhimpore.</i> —Mrs. Burkholder's work	160 00	
		<hr/>
		736 50
		<hr/>
Total		\$5,476 00

HOME DEPARTMENT.

<i>Storer College.</i> —Miss M. J. Baker's salary	\$500 00	
Mrs. L. Lightner's salary	400 00	
Miss Claire Sands's salary	500 00	
Miss E. V. Smith's salary	350 00	
Industrial department	400 00	
Western work	100 00	
Treasurer's salary	250 00	
Assistant treasurer's salary	50 00	
Education of Miss Shirley Smith	200 00	
		<hr/>
		2,750 00
		<hr/>
Total appropriations		\$8,226 00

ALICE M. METCALF, *Rec. Sec.*

Contributions.

F. B. WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Receipts for October, 1897.

MAINE.

Atkinson ch. for F. M.	\$3.00
Augusta aux. for Miss Coombs	5.00
Augusta juniors 1 share Miss Barnes's salary	4.00
Bowdoin Conf. col. (\$4 trav. exp. of Miss Butts)	5.61
Brunswick 1st F. B. S. S. Miss Barnes's sal.	1.00
Charleston aux. for F. M.	3.25
Ellsworth Q. M. aux.	7.65
Farmington Falls M. J. Morrill	5.00
Lewiston Pine St. ch. col. (90 cts. trav. exp. Miss Butts)	5.70
Milo ch. for F. M.	2.50
No. Kennebunk ch.	5.12
Oakland aux.	5.00
Ocean Park Mrs. A. M. Fiske A. M. of F. B. W. M. S.	1.00
Portland 1st F. B. ch. aux. for Midnapore	5.00
Portland Miss N. I. Aagerson's S. S. class for child in S. O.	6.00
Sebec Q. M. for F. M.	6.14
So. Dover Mrs. E. J. Lambert for F. M.	1.00
So. Dover Mrs. Mary Merrill for H. M. . . . .	.25
Wells Branch ch.	17.00
W. Falmouth aux. for Miss Coombs	6.00
W. Hollis aux. for F. M.	5.00

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Alton aux.	6.00
Belknap Asso.	9.20
Bow Lake aux.	3.75
Canaan ch.	5.00
Candia ch.	10.00
Center Sandwich aux. for Miss Butts and Ind. Dept.	4.00
Epsom Dora A. Scribner	1.00
Gilford Village W. M. S.	5.00
Gonic aux.	6.39
New Durham aux.	10.00
Northwood for L. M. W. M. S. Mrs. Louie Buker	20.00
Plymouth for F. M. Mrs. M. C. Wright	3.00
Portsmouth aux.	6.00
Rochester aux.	3.00
Rockingham Q. M. col.	8.25
Somersworth aux.	5.00
So. Berwick aux.	6.00
Strafford Corner aux.	5.50
W. Lebanon aux. for F. M.	4.00

VERMONT.

Corinth Q. M. col.	2.50
Huntington Q. M. W. M. S.	7.42
Jonesville	3.00

CORRECTION.—Every item in the receipts of Maine for September, which was for the "Inc. Fund," belongs to the Maine treasury, and so should not have been reckoned with our receipts. The amount of these incidents was \$30.79, leaving the receipts for the month \$372.44.

Washington aux.	\$1.00
W. Topsbam aux.	2.00

MASSACHUSETTS.

Lowell Paige St. for Sagri	6.25
Lowell Mrs. Susan L. Brown in memory of her mother Mrs. Martha S. Robbins	5.00
Mass. W. M. S. for Harper's Ferry	13.16
Melrose Hlds. Jun. A. C. F. for F. F.	1.00
Somerville aux.	5.00

RHODE ISLAND.

Arlington (Golden Memorial) Mrs. Taylor	2.50
Block Island ch.	1.73
Olneyville ch.	4.77
Providence annual meeting W. M. S. col.	30.72
R. I. Young People's Mission for Beebe Phillips	98.50
A friend for Golden Memorial	5.00

NEW YORK.

N. Y. City Wilson Memorial Mission for Raboni in S. O.	15.00
Spafford Q. M.	7.00

OHIO.

South Ridge ch. aux.	5.16
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ILLINOIS.

Lee Center Mrs. M. P. DeWolf for Miss Barnes	20.00
Looney Springs Q. M.	1.55
Marion Child Miss. Band for Miss Barnes	4.00

MINNESOTA.

Hennepin Q. M. W. M. S. for F. M.	2.00
Minneapolis 1st F. B. S. S. for Miss Barnes	6.25
Winnebago City aux. for F. M.	12.50

IOWA.

Iowa Y. M. for Miss Scott	5.00
Van Buren Q. M.	3.40

SOUTH DAKOTA.

Valley Springs Miss. Band for Miss Barnes	4.00
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CALIFORNIA.

Wheatland Emma Thurston Major for Donald Major with Mrs. Burkholder	10.00
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Total \$506.72

LAURA A. DEMERITTE, *Treas.*

Dover, N. H.

per EDVTH R. PORTER, *Asst. Treas.*

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I GIVE and bequeath the sum of ——— to the Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society, a corporation of the state of Maine.

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